

Manuherekia Catchment Values of Forest & Bird



Forest & Bird

TE REO O TE TAIAO | *Giving Nature a Voice*

Ben Goddard, 2019.

Te Mana o te Wai (*Wellbeing of Freshwater*)

- A holistic landscape scale approach to ecosystem management is required, considering environmental, social (including culture) and economical concerns. (**Triple Bottom Line**)
- By “**Creating Shared Value**” in resource use organisations and communities can work together to achieve prosperity through mutual dependence.
- The health and wellbeing of the water is put first, followed by essential human needs, other uses will follow. Emphasising sustainable development with **clear, evolving and active guidance** from regulators.
- Focus on inter-generational utilisation of the natural resource in line with a transition to the **National Policy Statement: Freshwater Management 2014**.

Will what we do today prevent someone from using it tomorrow, can we make things better for the future?



Environmental Value

- **“Natural Baseline Emphasis”** does any use plan respect the naturally occurring flows of the catchment, including taking all necessary steps to identify habitats and the wider ecosystem services provided?

- Priority is given to ensuring a natural state is restored (where practically feasible) and maintained. Resources are allocated for continued monitoring of environmental health, with clear objectives set for progress.

- Plans are made regarding **National Policy on Biodiversity Strategy**. Representing all native species, working towards a state of sustainable continued existence. *“Intrinsic Value”* – Developing a protective matrix linking regenerative agricultural and conservation uses.

- Practices are established considering natural character and landform. Assistance is provided through **education, transition and incentivisation** – guiding towards accomplishment of mutually beneficial outcomes. Supported by compliance monitoring and enforcement.

“...it [irrigated development] needs to be done carefully to ensure the unique character of the area remains.” Guidance: Conservation planning in agricultural landscapes: hotspots of conflict between agriculture and nature



Social Value

- Future approaches are initiated with mind to the entire catchment. Council, landowners and communities are facilitated to work together in **“Social Ownership”** achieving protection through participation.

- Emphasising concepts of **Stewardship**: *“those who live there are charged with managing this place, their place, and have a duty to ensure that it is not transformed in ways that detract from those qualities that emphasise its points of difference”*

- Existing levels of public access are enhanced, to allow for appreciation of natural characteristics. Recreational values are forwarded in partnership with landowners, coordinated for **sustainable shared opportunity**.

- Historical and Cultural values are identified for education, instilling **“Power of Place”** principles through geographical affinity. Meaningful relationships are formed that connect all people of Manuherekia to one another and nature.



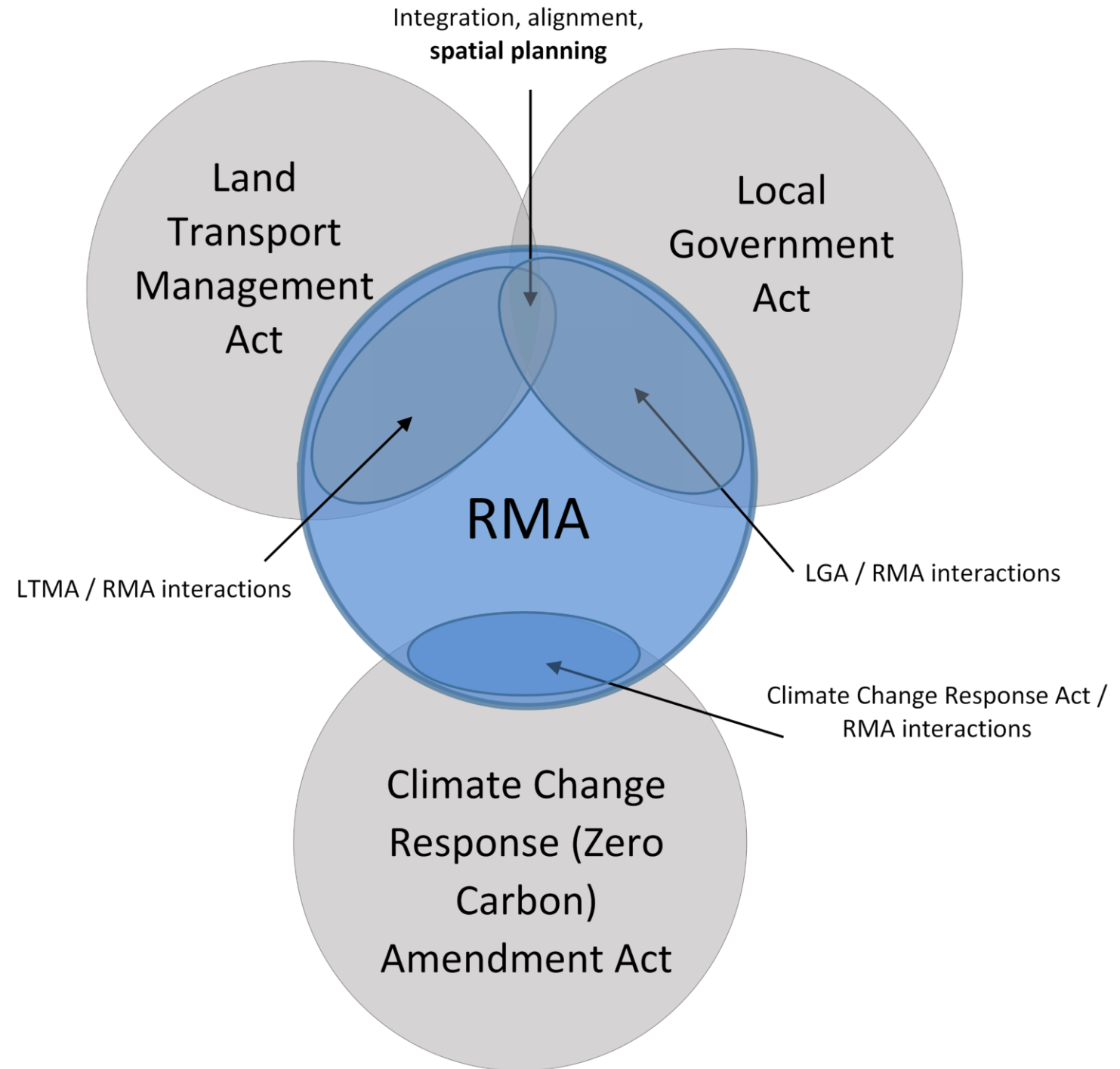
Economic Value

- Supported Land Management initiatives, moving towards practices that are “**Future Proof**”; exploring a transition to uses that also benefit environmental and social values.
- Implementing **Corporate Social Responsibility** practices can lead to increases in revenue and total value, as well as benefitting employee and customer wellbeing.
- **Innovation** in sustainable practices can create a competitive advantage, considering a global transition to a “**Green Economy**” as well as creating new opportunities. Adaptability to technological advances must be considered.
- **Achieving Sustainable Development Goals can create at least US\$12 trillion in business opportunities (over the next 10 years).**
- Address concepts of **Natural Capital**, could a monetary value on water use and ecosystem services aid decision making towards sustainable use?



Legislative Reforms

- Development of a process that is adaptable to potential Resource Management Act (RMA) law changes, as well as advances in scientific directed best practice.
- Pre-emptive action towards implementation of Zero Carbon Act and its alignment with current regulation.
- Necessary steps are taken to ensure constant monitoring and enforcement. Supported by guidance through partnership.
- Future activities of all organisations are underlined by transparency and accountability regarding environmental impact.
- Grant the Manuherekia (and all rivers of Otago) legal personhood?



Future Vision

- Transition is made away from “adversarial processes” whereby stakeholders work together to create a **unified, sustainable future**. Comprising a holistic, relationships approach, enhancing life supporting provisions of the catchment.

- Environmental use is considered “in total”. Establishing a dedicated catchment group, directed by local government to manage and allocate resources fairly. Consistent with the **limits required for environmental prosperity**, addressing cumulative impacts. *“Guardians of Manuherekia”*

- Long term, local government led planning is initiated for a transition towards sustainable practices region-wide. Addressing all aspects of human activity, requiring **all organisations** to develop and implement effective environmental management practices.

- Define a positive biosphere through human influence, utilising the **“Anthropocene”** era to ensure sustainable practice and stewardship. Synergy of governance, law and science.

- Future action is driven by a prioritized objectives timeline, continually reviewing human impact and forming best practice to achieve **“Environmentally Neutral: Central Otago”**





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Local Government Examples:

- Local Governments for Sustainability (International Network)
- Nuremburg City Council
- Copenhagen City Council

Evaluating Progress

- There could be value in **Sustainability Reporting**. For the purposes of assessing achievement of local priorities and organizational performance.

- Results are benchmarked to national optimal standards for **shared capacity development**.

- Reports should be disseminated in an **understandable, visualized and relevant** manner for all stakeholders.

- Active feedback loops are generated to initiate **empowered public participation** in governance.

- Not a **“magic tool”** to fix problems, focus on the reporting process for **“perseverant yet experimentative reflection”**

Guidance: Sustainability reporting by local governments: a magic tool?

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